

Charter Statement for the Kansas Health Policy Authority Data Consortium

In its enabling legislation, the Authority is given responsibility for a wide range of health and health care data and is charged with using and reporting that information and to increase the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of health services and public health programs. The Authority is specifically required to adopt health indicators and include baseline and trend data on health costs and indicators in each annual report submitted to the Legislature. The Authority also bears statutory responsibility for managing a wide array of health data that includes both programmatic, or administrative, information and non-programmatic data:

Programmatic data. Beginning July 1, 2006 the Authority will also be responsible for using and managing the programmatic data associated with Medicaid, the state employees health benefits plan, and the state workers compensation self-insurance fund.

Non-programmatic data. The legislation establishing the Authority transferred powers and responsibilities of the Health Care Data Governing Board effective January 1, 2006, including ownership of the health care data system. The health care data system includes inpatient hospital claims information and the provider database. The Authority is also empowered to expand or redefine data submission requirements by providers, insurers, and others. House Bill 3010, under consideration by the 2006 state legislature, would transfer responsibility for management of the Kansas Health Insurance Information System (KHIIS) to the Kansas Health Policy Authority. Since ownership of the KHIIS remains with the Kansas Insurance Department, final decisions regarding the collection and use of this data would rest with the Commissioner.

Establishment. Meeting the information challenge will require a new direction, additional resources, and a coordinated partnership between the Kansas Health Policy Authority and the wide community of stakeholders with an interest in the appropriate and effective use and dissemination of health data. To help meet this broad set of responsibilities, the Kansas Health Policy Authority Board hereby establishes a Data Consortium.

Charge. The Kansas Health Policy Authority is to ensure the effective collection, management, use and dissemination of health care data to improve decision-making in the design and financing of health care and public health and wellness policies. To help meet the Authority's responsibilities in this area, the Executive Director is charged with the responsibility of convening and directing the Data Consortium. The Consortium is to advise the Authority in the development of policies and bring recommendations to the Authority for consideration. Specific responsibilities of the Data Consortium include:

- making recommendations regarding the scope of the Authority's responsibilities for managing health data;

- recommending reporting standards and requirements for non-programmatic data owned or managed by the Authority;
- crafting data use policy recommendations governing access to health information by external users of both programmatic and non-programmatic data owned or managed by the Authority;
- recommending empirical studies and evaluations supporting the goals and objectives of the Authority;
- providing input on health and health care data initiatives in other organizations and agencies;
- developing recommendations for public reporting standards for health care providers and other health care organizations.

Membership. The Data Consortium is designed to bring together those who generate, manage and use health data in order to ensure that data policies and recommendations are developed with the widest possible consideration. Consortium membership is determined by the Authority and will include the following individuals and representatives from the following organizations:

Executive Director of the Health Policy Authority
Department of Health and Environment
Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Kansas Insurance Department
University of Kansas Medical Center
University of Kansas Medical Center-Wichita
Kansas Health Institute
Kansas Foundation for Medical Care
Kansas Medical Society
Kansas Hospital Association
Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine
Kansas Mental Health Association
Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved
Kansas Nurses Association
AARP
Kansas Public Health Association
Two self-insured employers appointed by Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Governance. The Health Authority establishes the Data Consortium as an advisory committee to the Authority according to section 3(c) of Senate Bill 272. The Board authorizes the Consortium and as many as three working sub-groups of the Consortium to meet as many as six times each year. The scope of responsibility granted to the Data Consortium by the Health Authority is defined in this charter statement, but may be revised by the Authority at its discretion. The Executive Director will serve as Chair of the Consortium. Unless alternative procedures are adopted by the Consortium, formal decisions and recommendations of the Consortium are to be deliberated according to Robert's Rules of Order.

The Board recognizes the wide range of issues and responsibilities that will be brought together under the aegis of the Consortium. To help meet these potentially diverse responsibilities, the Board recommends the establishment of working groups (or consortia) in three specific areas operating within the Data Consortium to develop health care policy and data recommendations for the Board: (1) Health Care Quality; (2) Health Care Pricing; and (3) Public Health/Consumer information.

Staff support. The Executive Director of the Health Authority is responsible for the provision of staff to support the activities of the Consortium. The Consortium is formed to help meet the Authority's statutory requirements in the area of data policy and management. These requirements are substantial, and will require additional resources if the Consortium and the Authority are to meet their objectives in these areas. The Board in its first report to the legislature on March 1, 2006 indicated that it would develop a request for additional resources to address data management and analytic needs. This request will enable the Authority to address the full intent of this Charter statement as well as the broad statutory expectations for the Authority.